### Amusements, etc., Chis Evening.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC. - Italian Opera: "Mignon." BOOTH'S THEATER. - At 1 and at 8: "Hamlet." FIFTH AVENUE THEATER. - At 1; and at 8: "Di-GRAND OPERA HOUSE. -At 2 and at 8: "Charles LINA EDWIN'S THEATER. - Opera Bouffe. At 2: "La Perichala." At 8: "Barbe Bleu." Mile. Aimes. NIRLO'S GARDEN. - At 2 and at 8: "The Black OLYMPIC THEATER. -At 2 and at 8: "Humpty Dumpit." G. L. Fox.

Union SQUARE THEATER .- Variety Company. WALLACE'S THEATER .- "John Garth." L. Wallack.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—At 2: "The Great Republic." LEAVITT'S ART ROOMS .- Palette Exhibition. SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.—Birch, Wambold, etc.

EMPIRE RINK. - P. T. Barnum's Museum, Men-New-York Circus, Fourteenth-st., between Third and Fourth-ave, at 24 and at 8.

NIXON'S SOUTHERN CIRCUS, Nos. 728 and 730

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In addition to the \$100,000,000 of Pive Pwenty Bosos now redeemed by the Government, as additional call has been made for a reason one of the Success Sungers on which interest will cease in March

Further calls of the Bonds of that and the following Series will doubtless follow during the year. Holders can realize a better price for their Hands unroun TBBT ARE CALLED IN by the Government than afterward as above to by the relative market prices of called and uncalled Bonds.

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more permanent form without delay. We ofer and recommend the Six Pan Cant Gold Bonds or tak

A small proportion only of the loan now remains unsold, and the re-

suveriment of the proceeds of refermed Five-Twentles abould absorb

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# New-York Daily Tribune.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1871.

## TRIPLE SHEET.

The condition of the Prince of Wales is not so favor able. \_\_\_ The small-pox is raging in Birmingham Eng --- The organization of the new Spanish Ministry is complete. \_\_\_\_ The Italian War Minister announce that there is no reason to fear aggression from France.

The Committee of the French Assembly has rejected the proposition to return to Paris. \_\_\_\_ The steamer Florida, on leaving St. Thomas, was boarded by a Spanish officer, who examined her papers and allowed

The resolution impeaching Gov. Scott has been defeated in the South Carolina Legislature. - The Grand Duke Alexis visited Niagara Palls, yester-day. ....... The Shoshone Indians threaten to tear up the Central Pacific Railroad. .... The Chicot Co., Ark., troubles continue. Serious fires have occurred in Philadelphia, Ringhamton, and Fort Wayne.

An attachment has been granted against ex-Controller Connolly's personal property, at the suit of Patrick Car-roll, ex-Superintendent of Markets. The Grand Joseph H. Choate, Henry Ward Beecher, and others 

shares of stock .-- The Chamber of Commerce fire relief fund amounts to over \$1,000,000. Gold, 1082, 1081 1884. Thermometer, 14°, 180, 120.

Lack of space compels us to omit over three columns of advertisements ordered for insertion on our twelfth page.

How the sudden poverty which has come to Chicago with the fire has affected all classes of society, and how social 'phases are changed by that catastrophe, is admirably and clearly told by a well-known journalist, whose letter we print to-day.

A Ship Canal around Niagara Falls has long been a pet project for discussion in Commercial Conventions. The resumé of the doings and debates in the late Convention at Detroit, printed to-day, will possess considerable attractiveness to many of our readers.

The interesting experiment of a narrowgauge railroad in Colorado is fully explained in a letter from an occasional correspondent of THE TRIBUNE, herewith printed. The work appears to have been successfully completed and the details of its progress and operation will be examined by thousands who propose similar enterprises in differents parts of the United States.

Voluminous foreign correspondence forms a noticeable and attractive feature in THE TRIB-UNE to-day. Among these letters will be found one from our Regular London Correspondent, giving new details of the illness of the Prince of Wales and the growth of Republicanism in England. A correspondent at St. Petersburg relates some curious facts concerning the Russian army and its morale, which will attract attention; the exhibit is not encouraging to Russian plans for a foreign war. From Rome we have once more the story of the opening of the Italian Parliament by Victor Emanuel and the attendant ceremonies and rejoicings.

It seems that Gov. Scott of South Carolina felt strong enough in the Legislature to press to a vote the question of impeachment which was hanging over him. In this issue several other officials, whose financial operations have been very large, were also interested, and all combined to defeat any steps taken to bring any of them to punishment. The result is the failure to impeach the Governor by a vote of 63 to 32. How far the Governor, Treasurer, Financial Agent, and other officers are responsible for the vast thefts which have been committed in the State has never yet been clearly shown. In the interest of good government, it is to be hoped that failure to impeach Gov. Scott does not mean failure to convict the guilty.

Yale College is showing itself worthy its great name and fame. The arrangements now concluded at New-Haven for the studies of Post-Graduates are liberal, and seem admirably adapted to the demand for a thorough course of university education. The system, as explained in the columns of THE THERENE to-day, is certainly comprehensive, and the names of the professors whose labors are included in the scheme of Post-Graduate instruction are of men eminent in science and literature. Yale is entering upon a new epoch in its existence, and, though the curriculum which has just been adopted for advanced students is not the growth of any special exigency, it is a cheerful indication of the coming career of the College.

There is less and less cordiality in the relations which exist between France and Italy. The French Minister for Foreign Affairs does not like the tone of the reply made by the King of Italy when asked to recall the Chevalier Nigra, Italian Embassador at Paris. The Chevalier was obnoxious to the French Government on account of his Imperialist proclivities and intrigues. And now the Italian Minister of War, in a speech in Parliament, finds occasion to speak seriously of the probabilities of war with France, though he does not consider such a calamity imminent. CHE-SPRANE AND OHIO RAILEOAD COMPANY AS SMOONE the SAFEST AND But, though there is no special reason to ex-NOT I ROBERTE SECURITIES TO BE MAD INTER MARKET FOR THE SE. | pect war, Mr. Viscouti's explanation of his present case of mind is inconsequential. Nations like France do not always refrait from rushing into war simply because peace is their best policy.

> An official statement of the debt of the City and County of New-York, at the close of business on the 16th inst., has been prepared by Controller Green. It is rather more favorable than we had a right to expect. We are now paying interest on about \$110,000,000, including \$20,000,000 held by the Sinking Fund. The net indebtedness, including \$6,000,000 of claims already presented on unsettled accounts, and deducting the cash in the City and County Treasuries, is \$94,533,867 99. From this time until September next the debt will rapidly increase, as the receipts from taxes will be light. The funded City debt on Sept. 14, the date of the last statement before this, was \$51,302,809 51; it is now \$57,302,308 51; funded County debt, Sept. 14, \$27,816.850; it is now \$29,979,500. Deducting the State tax, now due, and the unpaid warrants on the Treasury, the balance in the City and County Treasuries is less than a million dollars.

We may hope we are approaching a solution of two or three questions which have clouded the relations of our Government with Spain for some time past. The Florida bas at last sailed for home and received the not unexpected insult of a blank cartridge and an examination from a Spanish man-of-war exercising belligerent rights in time of peace. The Hornet still lies at Port-au-Prince, watched by the Zaragoza. But a lucid interval seems to have come to the Spanish officers there which has induced them to send their Consul ashore, and to refer the case of the Hornet to the decision of the Governments at Washington and Madrid. At the same time that we announce the apparent termination of the acute symptoms of these annoying incidents, we call especial attention to the letter from our Washington correspondent giving a full and clear presentation of the Cuban view of the action of our Covernment and the attitude of the Spanish, or rather Volunteer, authorities in the Island. Of course, we cannot permit the Cubans any more than the Spaniards to dictate our policy; but we may derive some advantage from seeing precisely what they desire, and what they claim. A community lying so near us, and bound to us by so many ties, inevitably imposes upon us obligations far more weighty than those of mere platonic amity which we bear to European Powers. Sooner or later a serious duty is to devolve upon us in this matter. There is at present little hope that we are to be aided by any Government in Spain in settling it. Sagasta

has better intentions, but is hampered by foolish pledges and fears of public opinion. Luckily, Gen. Sickles is here to tell the President precisely what we have to expect from the Peninsula. After he has visited Washington, we may reasonably look for some more certain and decided grasp of all these questions than we have recently been accustomed to.

1872.

It is time that we began to accustom ourselves to the appearance of the figures which together indicate the year just before us, and which must soon be inscribed at the head of every letter, borne on the front of each newspaper, and printed on the cover of every monthly or quarterly. So let us, for a few moments, look shead and see what the New

Year is likely to bring us. We are to choose a President in 1872-ac much is certain-unless, indeed, there should be more than two candidates, and no one receive a clear majority of the Electoral votes; in which case, the President would be chosen by the House of Representatives in February, 1873. As, however, there is now no probability of a triangular or quadrangular canvass, we may confidently assume that, after infinite effort and struggle, strife and noise, calumny and vituperation, the choice of a President will be made in November next by the People, and ratified by the Electoral Colleges on the first Wednesday in December following.

The year just before us is not the centenary of any great event in modern history. A hundred years ago, our fathers were still somewhat angrily resisting the arrogant claim of the British Crown and Parliament of unlimited, unbalanced power to tax them without even the formality of asking their leave; but only the discerning few as yet foresaw the bloody struggle that was then imminent. One hundred years ago, peace was very general in both hemispheres, except that the Partition of Poland among her three powerful neighbors had been decreed and initiated. And now it looks as though the next great war in Europe would be fought between the Powers which perpetrated that gigantic crime and upon the plains so often reddened with the life-blood of its victims.

France seems a smothered but not sleeping volcano, just ready to vomit flame and ashes, yet not likely very soon to trouble the repose of her neighbors. That her present government cannot outlast the coming year, is a safe prediction; but who can tell what fashion of monarchy shall supplant the doomed Republic? The priests and ruder peasantry would have Heary V. if they could; the Army officers prefer Napolcon III.; the manufacturers and shopkeepers lean toward the House of Orleans; the workers for wages constitute the main strength of the Republic. That Thiers will soon cease to be President, few doubt; beyond that, all is blind coniceture.

Great Britain seems to be gravitating toward a republic in fact if not in name; but the obstacles to be encountered are gigantic. Among Christian countries, there remains no other whose social structure is so essentially aristocratic as hers. A hundred families own half her immense wealth; the greater portion of her soil belongs to a much smaller number. A social revolution in the British Isles may be the bloodiest and most destructive that the world has yet seen. It can hardly be initiated while the National Finances remain as sound and hopeful as they now are and a majority of the rural tenantry continue attached to the foundal lords by a tie of common interest; yet the day of strenuous effort for a radical upturning in Britain cannot be far distant. The union of Church and State is probably the next belwark of aristocracy to be assailed and subverted.

Spain has made more progress toward daylight within the last ten years than any other country. Till lately a thrall of bigotry and imbeile despotism, she has to-day a liberal constitution and a parliamentary regime, and is rapidly gaining in popular intelligence and popular power. Her fearfully disordered Finances and her enormously over-generaled Army are the chief remaining obstacles to her complete ren-

Italy is no longer a choos of nominally independent but impotent states and of foreign provinces, but a liberal kingdom of twentylive millions, rapidly growing in intelligence, cohesion, and strength. More newspapers are issued weekly in any quarter of her area than in the entire peninsula twenty years ago. She needs but peace and a policy which shall serve to develop her material resources to render her, by the close of this century, one of the Great Powers of Europe.

Germany is to-day the strongest and most influential among those Powers; but her Emperor and his Prime Minister Bismarck are both old men; 'so is his military brain, von Molike. When these pass away, as in the order of nature they soon must, the prestige of the monarch will fade, and the Empire enter upon that work of social melioration which has already been delayed too long, allowing Austria, and even Russia, to take the lead of her. These two great military monarchies are likely to be involved in deadly strife at no distant day; but Germany will stand aloof it the voice of her people shall be heard.

Mexico and all Spanish America seem to us a continual anarchy, when in fact they are in most respects what Europe and Christendom were ten to twelve centuries ago. A far wider expanse and a sparser population are the most essential points of difference.

On the whole, we hope to be obliged to bloodiest years of the past have been ushered in as peacefully as this now promises to be. Let us reverently trust that whatever of agony and we the New Year may bear in its bosom may be overruled for good, and that the human race may visibly, palpably profit by all its sufferings and sorrows.

### BRIBERY.

Mr. Merriam introduced into the House of Representatives, last Monday, a bill "to punish bank, insurance, State and Government officials for bribery and corruption." No doubt it was well intended, and if it had been entitled a bill to prevent the punishment of bribery and corruption, it would have been more appropriately named. It imposes a penalty of a ine not exceeding \$10,000, imprisonment for at least one year and at most three years, and perpetual disqualification for office under the United States upon any officer guilty of the offense against which the bill is directed, and it seems to cover pretty well those insidious varieties of bribery which are usually concealed under cover of a subscription to stock, or a loan, or some other legitimate business transaction. Thus far the bill is a good one; but the fourth

functionary who accepts it. This would render the conviction of either party impossible, since neither could be compelled to testify against the other. It would better satisfy our sense of justice to punish both; but experience has shown that the only way of reaching official corruption is to spare one of the parties from prison in order to use them in the witness box. The very same plan of making bribery safe and easy which Mr. Merriam proposes in Washington was attempted at Albany by the Tammany Ring.

MORMON AND ENGLISH POLYGAMISTS. Apropos to the so-called persecution of the Mormon polygamists by the Government (of which some further accounts are given in THE TRIBUNE'S correspondence to-day), the English press indulge in some curious logic and vehement adjuration for us to have respect to liberty of conscience. "The whole attack," we are surprised to learn, "is owing to the unthinking brutal ferocity of the New-York press, headed by THE TRIBUNE," who are hounding these innocent people on to their destruction. "The taste of blood has an ap-'petizing effect upon some animals," we are reminded, though how the New-York papers are to be advantaged by the slaughter of the saints, or even catch a mouthful of Brigham when he is "catawampously chawed up," they fail to inform us.

Polygamy, The London Examiner is fair enough to remember, is legalized and nourished by the British Government in India on a far larger scale than it ever existed in Utah, If it were interfered with, not only the trade in opium but the Eastern Empire would be lost. But if polygamy be a crime, it is the duty of England as of America to put it down at the cost of disintegration. The Examiner. admitting this, proceeds to prove the harmlessness and snowy innocence of Brigham's harem and similar domestic arrangements in the East, first by reference to the household affairs of Solomon and David, and "the coexistence in those patriarchs of picty and all the virtues." We have changed all that, and if those venerable patriarchs lived now, even if their polygamous propensities did not, as before, lead one of them into murder and the other into paganism, we fancy their remorse and devotion would find as appropriate back-ground in a State prison as in a throne, and serve as well the purpose for which God gave them notoriety, i. e., to be an example, not a model, to other men. The other remarkable argument which the London press bring ngainst us, is that concubinage exists in New-York and London, though half covered, to as large a degree as in Salt Lake City. The British Parliament lately refused to say that a wife was entitled to a divorce even when a mistress was brought into the house to live with her; also, "it would bear hardly on New-York society if every man who violates his marriage vows was compelled to share Brigham's twenty years' penal servitude;" ergo, it is impossible to contend that polygamy is so terrible a social evil that it must be trampled out at all hazards. We are also reminded that we tolerated Slavery, until forced to remove it, and hence our effort to destroy polygamy is a cruel persecution. "That we fail to embrace such an unexampled opportunity of

is lamented most by those who admire our freedom and energy." This eloquent pleading on high religious grounds for Mormon nastiness, in the same ournal which a page further on vehemently arges the legal condemnation of the half and showers of red pepper. dozen persons who annually marry their wives' sisters, is only to be explained by their assertion that over "ten thousand of the lowest population in England have emthe Mormon faith and emibraced experiment tried long enough in America. They do by no means "run themselves out." as our English friends sanguinely prophesy will be the fate of polyguny. We have, indeed, rather made a specialty of such experiments; have planted and nursed Slavery, Tanimany Rings, and a dozen other corrupt growths in morals or politics, dug about them and watered them. But they never died out of themselves. If our British moralists can show us any social evils of their own which have given up the ghost under the influence of smiles and patting, we can better understand their championship of Mr. Young's very unpleasant marriage relations.

CHILDREN WHO HAVE NO CHELSTMAS. The strongest appeal that comes to me today is that from the thousands of hungry and half-naked children in our streets, made through the Aid Society, which has hitherto been their most efficient helper. The Tammany thieves did not spare even the funds appropriated for the relief of these homeless little ones. The Society is, therefore, now, at the bitterest season of the year, utterly without means. During the last few nights of intense cold hundreds of children have been sleeping in boxes or in church porches, and by daylight have crept about without shoes o stockings or means to procure a meal's victuals. It is easy and pleasant, in the comfort of our Christmas enjoyment, to shut our ears to this tale of suffering, and say that there are charitable organizations to relieve it. But these are the simple facts stated by the organization to whose care the children fall, chronicle little or no carnage in 1872; yet the and whose business it is to know what amount of want exists. They have no means now of relieving it. "Many children," they state, "come barefooted to our "industrial schools. Children have been known to fall fainting on the floor of these schools for want of food. During the past year nearly 12,000 boys and girls have been supplied with sleeping places who had no other home. Will our friends throughout the city and country help us to give to these unfortunate little ones a happy Christmas ?" The work of this Society in the last year

testifies to the justice of its claims upon us. Beside the ledging-houses sustained, thirty industrial schools have been kept in operation, where 9,429 children have been taught and partly fed and clothed, 3,386 have been sent to good homes, mainly in the West. Over 6,000 orphans have been protected and cared for: the total number of children under charge of the Society, 24,748. Fifty dollars, we learn, is sufficient to give to three of these children a home in the West. How many of us will carry into the devotion and thankfulness of Christmas day the consciousness that we have helped to take three of the souls for whom Christ died out of poverty and vice and to give them a chance for a life like our own? section defeats the preceding three by laying | Or if we cannot do so much, we can at least upon the officers of corporations tendering a bribe | help this merning to clothe some shivering is little better than Valmaseda. Ruiz Zorrilla a still heavier penalty than is enacted for the little body or cover a pair of bare and bleed- dom to join the striken. We are considered in the little body or cover a pair of bare and bleed-

ing feet. Gifts of provisions, clothing, or money may be sent to the Central office, No. 19 East Fourth-st., care of C. L. Brace, Secretary, or will be called for if the address is forwarded.

There is no need for us to strengthen our

appeal by any argument. The happy faces of our own little ones, tenderly cared for from their cradles, for whom the birthday of Christ soon to dawn is the brightest day of the whole year, plead for these their brothers outside in the pitiless cold, starving, halfnaked, and homeless. Or if there are no little ones about our hearth; each one of us can look back to his own childhood, and remember how bitter were its little pains, how keen its little pleasures; how a harsh word or a neglect or mortification wrung the childish soul, hungry for love and care, with a pang that in middle age we never feel. How is it with these children, then, whose lives day after day are full of hunger and want, who see every hour luxuries and comforts, the open doorways of happy homes, only to know that they are not for them; who meet at every turn neglect, contempt, bitter mortifications? In the name of the good God, can we bring no pleasure or touch of kindness, this Christmas, into these children's lives? Christ, to whom they belong, and whose birthday we are about to keep, left them to us as our wards and charge. Some day He will hold account with us. "Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, my brethren, ye "did it not to me."

But out of no sense of duty, but of sheer brotherly love, let us unbar the doors of our Christmas feast, and teach our children to help these children out of the road to death, and, whatever we do, let it be done to-day.

A MARTYR TO FREE SPEECH. The first necessity of a great cause is the possession of a martyr. Though we are assured by the copy-books of our youth that truth is mighty and will prevail, there is no commodity that requires such liberal advertising in order to bring it into general circulation. Money will buy vice, but, since the world began, the price paid for truth has been blood. When John Brown went forth to the scafford bravely exclaiming, "I am persuaded that I 'am worth inconceivably more to hang than "for any other purpose," he foretold the knell of Slavery. When the Government of that contradictory inconceivable, M. Thiers, condemned Rossel to be shot, it gave to Communism a hero whose fame bids fair to extinguish that of the President himself.

Republicanism in England is young. Born obscurely, not knowing who were its perents, the poor thing has languished for want of proper care. Adopted recently by Sir Charles Dilke, it has gained in strength and stature, only needing a baptism in blood to attain a riper development. That baptism has come. It is not the martyrdom of a John Brown or of a Rossel that we have now to record; but William Schofield, age 56, is no less a martyr to free speech because of his being in bumble life. On Dec. 7, William Schofield, a laborer of Bolton, died from injuries received in the Temperance Hall, while peaceably listening to Dilke's very sensible and by no means revolutionary address on the distribution of political power. Elsewhere, Dilke's arguments in favor of setting an example of high social toleration a republic, of a treer parliamentary representation, of reforming, or, better, abolishing the House of Lords, have been answered by howls, cheers for a Queen whom the young M. P. has never attacked, spasmodle singing,

Burning to resent the right of independent criticism, scorning weak retorts, inclamed by lying placards, primed with drink and armed with stones, bricks, bludgeons, hammers, and other weapons, the rough and ready royalists grated, tempted by its promise of of Bolton proved that Britons were not meant earthly pleasures." If the opium trade for slaves, by a continual attack upon the excuses polygenry in India, this fact pos- windows and doors of the hall in which the sably glosses it over in Utah. For our Dilke meeting was assembled, until one side part, we fancy "high social teleration" for of the building became a complete wreck, such moral eccentricates as Brigham's is an Had this high carnival been held in America, where according to The London Telegraph, "rowdyism is a religion." Europe would have been told to gaze upon the license of democracy; had the assailants been partisans of Dilke, England would have been shown the fearful consequences of republican doctrines; but the rioters were loyal subjects of the crown, which makes a difference. Certain rules do not work both ways; therefore the police did not interfere, Temperance Hall was sacked, William Schotield was killed, a wife became a widow, and three children were made fatherless. Well done, ye good and faithful servants. Enter ye into the United (?)

Kingdom of Great Britain. If Dilke had not had the courage publicly to avow what many other Englishmen acknowledge privately, that the best form of government is republican, William Schofield would now be alive. Having made this declaration, supposing England's vaunted right of free speech to be far less mythical than it turns out, his opponents are determined that he shall not be heard on any subject, no matter how vital it may be to the people's interests. This tyranny reminds us of the good old days before the war, when Abolitionists were pelted with rotten eggs, Garrison was threatened with death, and the Press was muzzled lest it should attack the "peculiar institution." But we tell England now, what we told America then, that free speech is as inalicuable a right as free thought, and no amount of bullying, bricks, or bludgeons can stifle honest conviction. Men who are brave enough to avow their principles are brave enough to endure slander, bricks, and worse, for the sake of them. Persecution will only make them greater heroes. and increase the number of their adherents. William Schofield has lost his life, and thereby his family is reduced to poverty, as well as misery, for idaring to sympathize, though never so remotely, with the opinions of Sir Charles Dilke. His is the first blood shed in behalf of the people. The anti-Republican Association, composed of "noblemen and gentlemen," banded together for the purpose of putting down "democrats, infidels, and atheistical 'spirits," "morally and physically"-" physically" being italicized in their circular-will do well to remember that English republicanism has now its martyr.

London has just had a fresh illustration of the wisdom of putting the telegraphs under government control. There was a serious strike of telegraph operators at Manchester, and a full account of it was sent over the wires to The Daily News of London, in time for the next morning's paper. The Post-Office authorities, however, chose to withhold the dispatch, on the plea that the exigency of the public service would not allow them to aid in circulating intelligence which might not be accurate in all its details. That is the excuse; the real reason of course was that the go, rement did not want the telegreph clerks throughout the king-

what the English people will have to say about this extraordinary case of Post-Office espionage. for on such matters John Bull is sensitive. If Mr. Scudamore can take the responsibility of stopping tolegrams that he does not like, and dictating to London newspapers what sort of intelligence they shall print, is there any good reason why Mr. Creswell should not be assailed by equally terrible temptations if the postal telegraph scheme should ever be adopted at Washington? People laugh at the danger of a censorship over the telegraph ever growing up in this country. Well, when the same thing was predicted in England they laughed there tob; and here is the British consorship already.

When the news that the Tariff of 1824 had been passed by Congress reached Charleston, S. C., the British vessels in that port hung their flags at half-must. The New-York Evening Post rebuked the act as an indecent interference with the legislation of an independent country. There is a greater and more indecent interference with our legislation which that paper unceasingly incites and promotesthe endeavor to substitute British Free Trade for the Protective Tariff which fosters American Labor. The success of this interference would hang the Stars and Stripes at half-mass in every town in the United States.

The coming event of Christmas nowhere casts a

pleasanter shadow before than in our columns of

book advertisements. For weeks we have had seant room for the thronging announcements of holiday books, and this catalogue has long ceased to mean gorgeous gauntness and illustrated idiocy. For some years New-York has furnished a ready, even an eager, market for silks, velvets, fars, laces, and jew els, such as, in Europe, only Royalty, Nobility, and Americans over dreamed of buying. And we confess that we have not found the fact particularly to our credit. That is a raw and infant civilization which delights itself with stuffs and trinkets as the best things that money can buy, and a splender which suited the vulgar Tuileries seemed rather awkward and senseless in republican households. But since the War there has been a good growth of better taste, and though \$000 lockets and \$500 bonbonnieres are said to be all too few for those sighing Strephons who seek a token for their simple Chloes, yet the ready sale of so many fine pictures within the month, and the inability of publishers to keep pace with their orders, certainly point to the existence of a really "good society" at last. Very costly volumes and portfolios of pictures, expensive and scholarly books like Taine's "Literature," and especially the best and costlicst children's books, sell as readily as the cheapest. And, by the by, that reminds us to say that Santa Claus is clearly growing old and daft; for here, within two days of Christmas, he has but just thought of the very most delightful thing which he will pop into the stockings, this year. We informed him at once that we had not an inch of room left wherein to say, with his compliments, that it was waiting for the children. We will good-naturedly mention, however, that it is a book, that its name is "The New-Year's Bargain," that it says it is written by Susau Coolidge, and that it is an allegory. In general, allegories, on the banks of the Nile or of the Hudson, are so headstrong that we never attempt to struggle with one. But this tale of the Months is as graceful and quaint as Fouqué or Tieck, and as human as Miss Alcott. The pictures are as charming as the story : little elves and midges of children, Waltenulike minikins, never to grow up. Miss Ledyard honestly confesses to the pictures, and we much mistake if all the children who ratify this " New-Year's Bargain" do not adopt the apocryphal Miss Coolidge as an "aunty," and force her, in the confidence of relationship, to declare her own familiar and distinguished name.

It 's a venerable story, but it may as well be told ignin. Somebody in Connecticut sold a bottle of the hest brandy, and Prof. Silliman of Yale College, having analyzed the same, finds in it alum, iron, sulphoric acid, essential oil of some kind, tannic acid, Guinea pepper, burnt sugar, lead, and copper, with a basis of whisky. This is the delicious though somewhat miscellaneous mixture which, by the aid of a pretty label and a little sealing-wax on the cork, passes for Old Hennessy, London Dock, Martel, or Seignette brandy. The marvel is that it does not instantaneously kill the first deluded wretch who swallows a monthful of it; and in some cases perhaps it would be better if it did. It seems to about as well established as most things in this world, that nobody drinking spirits or wines can be sure of their parity. The imbiber opens his mouth and shuts his eyes, as the children do in the nursery piny. If we could but analyze what we can and drink--but we cannot.

It is hard to know exactly how to deal with a corporation when it has demoged you. The private communication seems now to be in rather the wher favor than the suit-at-law. The Eastern Railway is settling with those having claims upon it by reason of the dreadful collision resulting from its mismanagement, and how much that event cost it may never be known. We read of an incident which considerably elevates our opinion of human nature, and makes us believe that a corporation may have some sort of soul after all. One of the Maine railways was so lucky as to meet with a most liberal gentle man whose woodland its locomotive had set on fire. "Give me what is right," said he, i" for I desire to treat your corporation only as I would an individwal." Wonderful to relate, the corporation immediately came down handsomely. After this, we do not wonder that there is here and there a man who be lieves that the millennium is at band.

There is a fewn in New-Hampshire, Alsterd by name, which should receive the immediate attention of the Home Missionary Society. It has, it is true, five churches; but what are churches with ne ministers to preach and to pray in them? And not a parson has Alstead. There is one comparatively enlightened gentleman there who wanted to lony s Bible for his daughter, but in none of the shops of the town was there a Bible for sale. There was a minister there at that time, and the anxions father, calling upon him, was informed that the reverend person had only one Bible, but this he expressed his willingness to sell, remarking at the same time that it had been little used! We make these statements on the authority of The Peerhord | Teamsonips. The moral of the matter would seem to be that in a cm ill town one meeting-house may be better than five. What piety Alstead has should consolidate itself.

See ral papers, -notably The Albary Evening Journot and The New York Times, have been really with prompt objections to candidates named for the Herkship of the Sanate. Their articles have been understood as intended to favor Mr. James F. Terwilliger's aspirations, although this has not been made so explicit as the public would wish. Will either of the papers named have the kindness to say plainly whether they are in favor of this centleman for this place!

The New-York Evangelist of thes week problems a handsome map supplement, showing the rapid increase and vast territorial boundaries of the Presbrterian Church in the United States. This body of Christians, since the union of the Old and New Schools, now numbers 25 synods, 167 prosby teries, 4.346 ministers, 4,616 churches, and 455,378 morebors, representing a total aggregate of souls under its care of over two millions, not counting balf a million in the churches connected with the Southern Assembly.

The London Daily Telegraph, in a recent notice of the October number of The North American Review. speaks of it as "a periodical of which nother Sydney Smith, Jeffrey, nor Lockhart would have disclaimed the Editorship," and warns Tar Edinburgh and The Quarterly to look to their laurels. Mr. Charles K. Adams's article upon "French and Ger-man Diplomacy after Sadowa" receives special com-